



THE
Irish Letter
TO
Dr. SA—L.



LONDON
1837-38

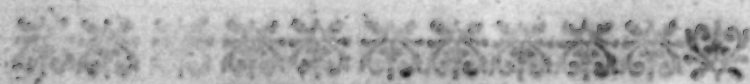
R James Edward Francis Stuart
Prince of Wales, &c

THE

First Letter



Dr. J.



Robert

A
LETTER
SHEWING
How to Reconcile
THE
CHURCHES
OF
England and Rome,
By Introducing the
Pretender.

Found amongst the *Papers* of an *Irish*
Popish Priest, who was apprehended
upon the late *Proclamation* to *Disarm*
Papists, &c, in *Ireland*.

Gens Inimica mihi.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Roberts near the Oxford
Arms in Warwick-lane. 1714.

LETTER

SHEWING

How to Reconcile

THE

CHURCHES

OF

England and Rome.

By Isaac Williams



Found amongst the papers of an
English Priest, who was apprehended
upon the late Expedition to Spain
English, &c. in Ireland.

Printed by J. Smith

LONDON:

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(v)

THE
Dedication,

To the Right Honourable

T. E. of *Wh-----n.*

MY LORD,

THE Great and lasting Services,
wherewith Your Lordship is known
to have oblig'd the Kingdom of
Ireland; the entire Satisfaction which the
BEST amongst that People shew'd under
Your Government there; and their Grate-
ful Remembrance to this Day, of what
You

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You then did for them, will, I hope, excuse the dedicating of these Papers to Your Lordship; which are publish'd with the same Views, and for the same Ends and Purposes, that the whole Conduct of Your Life proves to have been unalterably nearest Your Heart; viz. a Detection and Disappointment of the wicked and enslaving Designs of every Popish, and High-flown Subject of these Realms. And I hope that You will excuse me when I say, that it is with Pleasure I consider Your Lordship early listing of Your self in the honest Cause of Your Country; ever struggling in defence of the LIBERTY of the Subject; watchful of the Security of the Laws of the Land; tender of the Prerogative of the Crown; and PERSISTING firmly in the same way of Acting, upon the same English Principles, even in the worst of Times. Now as Your Enemies cannot deny Your Lordship's CONSTANCY; so Your Friends are proud, that it has shewn you a true PATRIOT. And this Truth must particularly be allow'd You of late, when the Hardiness of some Men was carried to that degree, that whilst they wrote, spoke, nay acted in opposition to
the

DEDICATION. vii

the Succession by Law establish'd; they had the Confidence nevertheless to press us into a Belief of their Good Designs in favour of the House of Hanover. But Your Lordship's Diligence and Penetration were not to be impos'd on; and the following Letter will fully, I hope, convince the less discerning Part of the World, that had Providence permitted some disappointed Persons to have gone on successfully with their Pursuits, they had inevitably plac'd a Popish Pretender on the Throne of Great Britain; notwithstanding all their false Reasoning and fair Pretences to the contrary. And to those disguised Managers of a French Interest, I'll only offer what my Lord Bacon said formerly of the Pope, That if the Hue and Cry were set up after Antichrist, tho' he would not expressly affirm his Holiness to be that Man of Sin; yet since he carry'd about him so many Marks of the Beast, he would certainly have him apprehended for the same. I desire to be excused from saying any thing to Your Lordship concerning the long and languid Rhetoric of the Irish Fathers, adorn'd with some Gleanings from Louvain and St. Omers: but will relieve Your Lordship, by

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concluding, that those Persons are amply rewarded now, who bravely withstood some late Difficulties ; since God himself has put an end to the Controversy, and has legibly shewn, that he embraces the Protestant Succession, and the Protestant Cause. I am, with all Respect and Gratitude,

Your Lordship's most Humble,

and most Obedient Servant,

The Publisher.

A
LETTER

From the
Chief of the POPISH CLERGY,
AND
From some other *Popish* Persons
of *Distinction* in the Kingdom
of **IRELAND,**
To the Reverend
Dr. Hen--- S-----ll.

Reverend Sir,

IT is with the greatest Sincerity,
and deepest Sense of *Gratitude*,
that we lay hold on this Occasion
to congratulate you upon God
Almighty's having *raised you up* to be
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an Advocate for his Truth, and to return you our heartiest Thanks for *our Share* of those Blessings, which thro' your means he has of *late Years* deriv'd to these Nations; assuring you that you are had in the highest Veneration and Esteem amongst us; inasmuch as that to your *Fortitude* and *Zeal*, to your *bright* and *influencing Example*, we owe all that *Constancy* and *Courage*, which at present attends us in very *severe Trials*, and Sufferings, in this unhappy Island, for *Conscience-sake*; expecting through the Blessing of God, and the good Offices of *your Friends*, to be soon freed from this *Toak*, which neither we nor our Fore-fathers were able to bear. Go on therefore, *Good* and *Venerable Father* of the *Church*; interpose your good Offices with the R——d the D——s, and other Persons of Figure in this *Kingdom*, for the Continuance of that *Moderation*, *Indulgence*, and *Countenance*, which is *now* shewn us, that whilst some *misguided* Persons endeavour to *widen* our Breaches, *they* with *Learning* and *Candour* may shew themselves the *Sons of Consolation* and *Peace*;

Peace ; may propose, and at length accomplish the wish'd for Terms of Accommodation amongst us. Oh how should we rejoice to see once more a thorough Establishment of the Truth in these flourishing Islands ! How well would Part of that Authority become you, and your judicious and godly Brethren, which is so deservedly fix'd at this Day in the Apostolick Church of Rome ! Whereas, alas ! 'tis with Pity and great Concern, that we behold the Power and Dignity, Respect and Income of your Clergy, lessening and declining every Day ; and the Sacred Function made almost a *stumbling Block*, and Offence. O Reformation ! when, where will you end ? Where are now your *Anathema's* ? where the Power of the Keys ? From the Time that you gave up *Transubstantiation* ; from the Time that you gave up your *Superintendency* over Mens Consciences, by Confession in this World ; and over their Souls, by disclaiming of *Purgatory* and pious Prayers for the Dead in the other ; from that Time date both your Contempt and *Ruin*. But thanked be the Almighty

God, that it is not *thus*, that you have all learn'd Christ; and Thanks be to *you*, and some other Orthodox Men of Virtue and *Courage*, that the Gospel in its *Primitive Purity* is *likely* to recover its Strength, and to be preach'd and practis'd amongst us *again*. For besides the *Inaependency* of the Church, which is so learnedly and strenuously asserted and maintained in *England*; besides that the *Reality* and *Propriety* of the SACRIFICE of the Eucharist, and Sacrament of our Saviour's Body and Blood, is so seasonably advanc'd; besides that the People are warn'd, that their Divisions, Heresies, and Schisms, are occasion'd by a too *free* Indulgence and Use of the *Holy Scriptures* (which indeed are allow'd to your Laity with a very *unvary* Latitude) and besides that the useful Doctrine of *Auricular Confession* is *well nigh* received (all which God of his infinite Mercy encrease and maintain) we should be wretchedly *ungrateful*, nay *stupid* too, did n't we chiefly ascribe our great *Prospect* of being re-establish'd again in the *free* Exercise of our most Holy and Pure Religion,

gion, to the *Political* Principles which have been so justly and learnedly defended by you and your *Friends*; to which Procedure we owe that the *Cruel Neronian Acts of Parliament*, fram'd against us and pass'd here, contrary to all Law, *Natural* and *Civil*, to take away our *Religion* and *Liberty* from us, have been neglected in the Execution of them, and of consequence, thro' the *Tenderness* of the *Magistrate's* Conscience, have lost all their *Malignity* and *Force*. For which reason we pray for the Qu—, BLESS her Ministry, and desire of God to prosper their Undertakings. Shall *Popery* therefore, as you term it, suffer, and be scandaliz'd any longer? Wont the MODERATE Party of the Church of *England* find Pleasure in doing us Right? and wont the others with Terror accuse themselves, for injuring a *Quiet* People, and placing of their Mischiefs to our account. Let 'em in God's Name henceforward speak out; let 'em call their late *Revolution*, REBELLION, and not set off a *Bad* Thing with a worse Name, in order to veil and palliate the Wickedness of it.

Resist-

Resistance is the Crime of Hell, and they who are *guilty* of it, receive to themselves *Damnation*.

And now give us leave, Reverend Sir, to admire that wonderful *Constancy* of yours in supporting the Principles which you always embrac'd, notwithstanding that *Principalities* and *Powers* oppos'd you. We all know how *early* you bless'd the World with your *sincerest* Thoughts upon this Subject, and what unanswerable Arguments you then produc'd for your *Dislike* of the Actions of a *considerable* *Foreigner*, and his *unjust* Acquirements in these Kingdoms. Your *Muse* was ingenious, tho' *young*, your *Satires* witty and sharp; and for your *Sermons*, all who have had the *Happiness* to read them, must allow them to be *elegant*, *conclusive*, and strong. Nor have you only serv'd the Cause of God and Religion in the *Press* and the *Pulpit*, not only at the *Bar* of the *House of Lords*; but at the more *private* Tribunal of every one who is so fortunate as to *converse* with you. Such *Modesty*, such *Temperance*; so *inoffensive*

a *Freedom*, particularly amongst the *Female Sex*; such *Charity*, with a DE-FERENCE to every other Person: Your Arguments in opposing Gainsayers so *candid*; your Endeavours to convince and instruct, so *frequent*; and your Reprimands to the Vicious and Debauchee, so *meek*; so like a *Gentleman*, as well as a *Christian*; together with an INTEGRITY not to be parallel'd; these are such distinguishing *Characteristicks*, that you seem *born*, and by Providence design'd for the peculiar *Blessing* of this *Age*; and therefore pray give us leave to make the following Representation unto you.

It has been, Reverend Sir, with the greatest Sorrow and Concern, that we have always beheld that remarkable Degree of *Partial Love and Affection*, which the Church of *England* has ever observ'd to the *Protestant Dissenters* of that Kingdom; when at the same time she has declar'd her self with *Discouragements*, nay Oppressions towards *us*. And what the more adds to our Resentment upon this Head is, that these

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Immunities and Privileges are granted with an *Air of Distinction* and Preference to a *People*, who are much more *deserving* of her Indulgence ; I mean the Professors of the Church of *Rome* : To which *melancholy* Truth many *pious* and learned Persons both of *Clergy* and *Laiety* have subscrib'd, and decided in this Controversy against us. Pray, Sir, *reinculcate* therefore upon this Occasion, what you so warmly *once* press'd upon the Nation, in that *Heavenly Discourse* of yours, for which you so *gloriously* *suffer'd*. Press the Malice and Danger of *Presbytery* ; shew it from your *own Observations*, shew it from the *Bible*, shew it from a *late*, and many Acts of Parliament, and *Treatises* written upon the Subject ; and from the unwearied Industry of a *factious* Sett of Men, who have ever labour'd *her Interest*, and that of a *Commonwealth* : And this do we beseech you, because that no Man is so *able* as your self. That *Zeal*, that *Courage*, those *lively* and bright Parts which you are Master of, that LEARNING, that PIETY ; they all call upon you, and point you out, as *only* fit for
this

this *Great, Glorious, and Useful* Undertaking. And let us beg of you, as we are of the *same Faith*; let us entreat you, by the *common* Tye of Christianity not only, but of Humanity also; by that deep *Veneration* which we have for your Church, and due *Esteem* for many of its *Members*; in short, by that *near Affinity* which is between us; but particularly by the *joint* Profession of the Holy Order of *Episcopacy*; that you stop not here, Great Sir; but push on. Go further now; for *now's the Time*; and take off that *National* Odium, which has lain so long and so heavy upon the injur'd *Catholics*. Shew our *undoubted*, tho' suspected *Love* for your Country and Religion; set forth our Willingness to *comply* with any Terms, which may *unite* us, and make us one People; display with what *Ease* all this may be done; how ready our greatest *Professors* are to fall in with your Measures, and undertake a *Comprehension* now, which you so *honestly* condemn'd upon the footing that it was *before*. Open with Heartiness the *promising Scene*, and let the World know how far many of your

own *D——rs* in *England*, and of this Kingdom of *Ireland* also, have advanc'd in this godly and necessary Work. Consider, Sir, the *Grand Article* of *Episcopacy* is already settled between us, and that a Controversy now on foot in *France* will be of wondrous use to us. The Case of Supremacy all the World knows will *no further* be insisted on than your own Divines have carried it; and as we never own'd our *Idolatry*, so no doubt we shall be ready to give it up, whenever you demand it of us. The *Prayers* for the *Dead* we resolve to make no *Matter of Faith* necessary to Salvation; and that *Mountain of Transubstantiation*, which has so long lain between us, and invidiously divided a very near Neighbourhood, the *Faith* and Dexterity of your own Divines has entirely remov'd. The *Sacrifice* of the Eucharist, shall be the common way of expressing it on both sides, and the People after this forbid any Controversies about the *Modus* of it, upon pain of *Excommunication*. Now when these things are settled and set off in a clear Light; *Homilies* agreed on to be read instead of

of the Bible; when your *Presbyterians* and all the rest of your *Sectaries* are *discourag'd*, and *silenc'd*; we cannot foresee but that by the help of these *Proposals*, and the good *Disposition* of *Friends in England*, we shall all become of *one Mind* and *one Faith*, and our *Sion* then will be the *Joy* of the whole *Earth*. But now whilst we write with all this *Assurance*, we are very sensible of the *Grand Objection* against it, which is, the *Disturbance* that it will give to the *Succeſſion* of the *Crown*, as it stands at present *establiſh'd* by *Law*; and that the *Difficulties* which must attend the *Alteration* of *that*, will be so many *Arguments* against the other. But pray Sir, by that *great Regard* you have to *Truth* and *Justice*, remove all this as fast as you can, and represent, as hitherto in some measure you have done, that the *Person* who now claims your *Crown* in *immediate Succeſſion*, is a *Protestant*, as well as *Heir* to your *Crown*: Represent that the *CAUSE* and *Obligation* of the *Abjuration Oath* ceasing, the *Oath* it self of consequence *ceases* too; that is, that the same *Power* which *impos'd*

the Oath, can *remove* it also ; and then, pray Sir, where's the Difficulty, where will be the Embarrassment ? especially if the *Young P*—— comes over to you strip'd of all his foreign Attendants, and becomes not only a *Protestant* himself, but contributes to the *uniting* of his Protestant and Popish Subjects into *one* Name and *one* Faith, which no other Prince upon Earth but himself can pretend to undertake. And we desire you to assure your Fellow-Subjects, that it is not in the Thoughts, either of the *French King*, or of any other *Catholic* Power, to invade, or to disturb you ; to violate their *Treaties*, and break the Peace ; for the *Plan* is laid upon the *Foundation* of the Gospel, and meek Spirit of Christ. And we have *Power* from *France* to inform you, that the *Bona Fide* of that Prince is of *equal* Validity and Force with his most *solemn Sacramental Oath*. Desire then your People to admit of no *Jealousies* and Fears ; for altho' your *Alliances* are broken, your *Armies* disbanded, their *General* disgrac'd ; altho' your *Fleets* are laid up, your Houses of Parli-
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liament debating whether your *Succession* be in DANGER or not; and whether your *Treaty of Commerce* be ADVANTAGEOUS or no; altho' some arrogant People do not stick to declare, that many of the present M——y, nay the —— her self, endeavours to hasten the P—— from *Barleduc* to St. J——s; altho' they affirm that the *French King* has an *Army and Fleet* ready upon this Occasion, whenever the *Signal* is given, and that many *Hearts and Hands* are ready to receive him, both in *Great Britain and Ireland*. Notwithstanding the good Disposition of *Scotland* in general towards him, and that many thousands are gone from hence to serve under him abroad, and many, many Thousands more ready to receive him, or a foreign Power in his Name, here; notwithstanding that the *Harbour of Mardyke* will supply the Place of *Dunkirk*; and in short, notwithstanding the Disgrace of the E——r of B——k's M——r, and of all his Friends, and the plain Encouragement of Persons of a contrary Sentiment; yet pray inform your People nevertheless,

less, that these are all *groundless Surmises*, and that we are very near a *final Coalition*, a thorough Reconciliation in *Political* as well as *Ecclesiastical* Affairs. To you therefore, and all your Friends, who have *PAV'D* the Way to this Christian Undertaking, by *explaining* the *Doctrines* of Scripture, which were chiefly in *Controversy*, and have set the *Title* and *Power* of the Prince in a *right Light*, by advancing *unlimited Passive Obedience*, and irrefutable, *Indefeizable Hereditary Right*; to you be the *Praise* for so glorious a Service both to *Church* and *State*; for which and the happy Prospect of *Peace* and *Unity*, let us all give thanks to the *God of Peace*. And that *God Almighty*, *Reverend Sir*, may particularly influence, bless, and reward you, is the hearty Desire of,

S I R,

Your most oblig'd and loving Brethren,

and most humble Servants,

The Catholic Clergy of Ireland, &c.

P O S T S C R I P T.

TO encourage you, Reverend Sir, to engage warmly in the above mentioned Proposal, we can assure you from the following Facts of the hearty Concurrence of your Friends on this side the Water.

The present B——p of *Wa——rd*, has in an Assize Sermon lately preach'd, set forth the Necessity of uniting your Church and ours, in Order to suppress Presbytery.

The L——d Chief Ju——ce D——ne at the said Assizes, in his Charge to the County of *Waterford*, commended the B——p's Design, and propos'd it to the Gentlemen of the County as fit to be encourag'd.

Many, and of Consequence, are the Efforts of our present able, and diligent L——d Ch——r, and other Persons of Figure and Distinction, and we can with great Confidence convince you, of
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the good Inclination of many of your Br—n, to fall in heartily with you. Witness many Ser—ns lately preach'd, the great Favour shew'd to Nunneries, erected contrary to Law, and the great Discountenance shewn by *our* Friends in great St—ons to Prosecutors against our Interests, particularly our Clergy, who most antichristianly are forbid, to preach the Gospel, and administer Sacraments.

F I N I S.

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Preparing for the Press,

Memoirs of the Affairs of *England*, after the Method of Memoirs concerning the Affairs of *Scotland*, from the Queen's Accession to the Throne, &c.

Those Persons who have any thing material to communicate upon this Subject are desir'd to direct them for Capt. *Johnson*, to be left with *Bernard Lintott* between the *Temple Gates* in *Fleet-street*.

